

I support media diversity

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised. While the mere act of regulating often seem to mitigate the philosophy upon which the nation was founded, trust-busting is a precedent set in every industry. Whereas, most monopolies must exist in order to warrant reaction, this is a potential monopoly that must be broken before it forms. The most dangerous and ill-serving monopoly that could exist is a monopoly on information. Once free-flowing information has stopped, our power to recognize and extinguish the monopoly that has stopped the flow is intrinsically diminished. We must preserve the "free market" of ideas so preserve the free market itself.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

This is not strictly an issue of business and economics. Society itself is effected. I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you,

Matthew Hals

P.S. Stop Reality TV